

Serial No. 10/800,719

Attorney Docket No. 11-236

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the indication that the amended drawings are accepted.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 are pending. Claims 3 and 11 have been canceled. Claims 6-10 have been withdrawn. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By way of the above amendment, claim 3 is canceled. Therefore, the rejection is moot.

On page 4 of the office action, dependent claim 11 was objected to, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include claim 11, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is allowable. Claim 11 was canceled. Claims 2, 4 and 5 depend from claim 1. In view of the above, the applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are patentable.

The applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include claim 11 since the office action indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. However, the applicants do not concede that other features in the claims are found in the prior art. The applicants wish to clarify for the record, if necessary, that the claims have been amended to expedite prosecution. Any narrowing amendment to the claims in the present Amendment is not to be construed as a surrender of any subject matter between the original claims and the present claims; rather this is merely an attempt at providing one or more definitions of what the applicants believe to be suitable patent protection. In addition, the present claims provide the intended scope of protection that the applicant is seeking for this application. Therefore, no estoppel should be presumed, and the applicants' claims are intended to include a scope of protection under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

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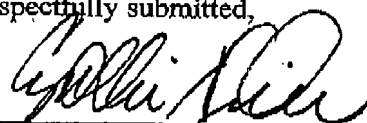
For all the reasons advanced above, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 as amended are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of non-elected withdrawn claims 6-10. Independent claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 11.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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